

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAO PA 00110 131514Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8223
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAO PAULO 0110

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, BR
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: CASE OF FLAVIO TAVARES

REF: MONTEVIDEO 5784

1. LAWYER FOR TAVARES (ABREU) VISITED CONGEN TO RELATE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. HUDGE DID NOT DECIDE ON DEFENSE REQUEST TO HAVE CASE JUDGED DURING JANUARY JUDICIAL RECESS. LAWYERS IMMEDIATELY SUSPECTED THAT LACK OF PRIORITY TREATMENT WAS A WAY OF TAKING HEAT OFF GOU WITHOUT FREEING TAVARES. INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING THEIR FIRST INSTINCTS TO UNLEASH A PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOU FOR THIS MANEUVER, LAWYERS SENT JULIO CESAR MESQUITA, SCION OF O ESTADO, TO BRASILIA FOR TALKS WITH FONMIN.

2. MESQUITA WAS REPORTEDLY TOLD BY FONMIN SILVEIRA ON JANUARY 10 THAT HE WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO OBTAIN TAVARES EXPULSION FROM COUNTRY BEFORE JANUARY 25 VISIT OF PRESIDENT GEISEL. LAWYERS REPORTED FROM MONTEVIDEO JANUARY 12 THAT THEY HAD "GUARANTEES" THAT TAVARES WOULD BE FREED DURING FIRST WEEK IN FEBRUARY AND PLANNED TO RETURN TO SAO PAULO. HOWEVER, LAWYERS FEEL SOME CONCERN FOR TAVARES' SAFETY AND HAVE LEFT FAMILY MEMBERS WITH HIM SINCE THEY HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT LEFT-WING GROUPS
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PAGE 02 SAO PA 00110 131514Z

MIGHT TRY TO KILL TAVARES TO EMBARRASS GOU. TAVARES IS AT VICTORIA PLAZA HOTEL WITH TWO POLICE GUARDS.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT GOU WOULD LIKE TO KEEP TAVARES UNTIL AFTER THE GEISEL VISIT EITHER TO CONTINUE THE INVESTIGATION OR TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF A JUDGMENT UNDER BRAZILIAN PRESSURE. GOB INTEREST, HOWEVER, IS IN HAVING TAVARES OUT OF THE COUNTRY

WHEN GEISEL ARRIVES SO THAT PRESS WILL NOT MAKE THE TAVARES CASE
THE CENTERPIECE OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT.
CHAPIN

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